

Executive Summary

The Ottawa River in Toledo is one of Ohio's most severely contaminated streams, due primarily to PCBs and metals. The Ottawa River, a tributary of Maumee Bay, is a principle stream in the Lower Maumee Area of Concern. Over the past fifteen years the City of Toledo and several dozen PRPs and stakeholders have invested tens of millions of dollars to restore the river.

Many planning, assessment, and source control projects have been conducted by private and public sector stakeholders. With the success of those efforts, the Ottawa River is ready for restoration by remediation of in-stream sediments. Remediation will further reduce risks, and reduce export of contaminants to Lake Erie. The Ottawa River is a valuable natural resource to the Toledo area and many stakeholders will benefit from its restoration. Past work includes:

- Investigations of about two dozen landfills and other sources in the watershed, leading to remediation of 16. Source controls for all sites are complete or ongoing.
- Water and sediment sampling to develop a clear picture of contamination throughout an eleven mile reach of the river
- Completed human health and ecological risk assessments for use in determining remediation priorities
- The Remedial Alternative Evaluation is underway in the *Ottawa River Sediment Remediation Priorities* project. By October 2004 this project will identify sediment remediation priorities, including remedial alternatives, locations and dimensions, and costs. The top priority project has already been identified and developed for implementation under this proposal.

The highest sediment PCB concentration found in Ottawa River sediments is 1,142 ppm, near River Mile (RM) 5.9. Other high concentration spots were found between downstream of Lagrange Street (RM 6.3) and downstream of the Norfolk-Southern bridge (RM 5.7). Remediation of this area is a top priority identified by the Remediation Priorities Evaluation to reduce risks associated with PCB and to reduce potential downstream transport. The targeted remediation area includes pockets of sediments in this 3,000 foot reach. Contaminated sediments will be removed by environmental dredging, and disposed of subject to Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) regulations. An estimated 2,100 cy of contaminated sediments will be removed at a cost of \$1.203 million. Work could start in 2005 and be completed in 2006.

This project will mark a significant milestone in the 15-year history of restoration efforts for the Ottawa River. The project also represents another significant opportunity to reduce contamination in tributaries to the Great Lakes, further promoting the recovery of the Great Lakes ecosystem as well.